



Runge Conservation Nature Center

HABITAT HAPPENINGS

March and April 2004

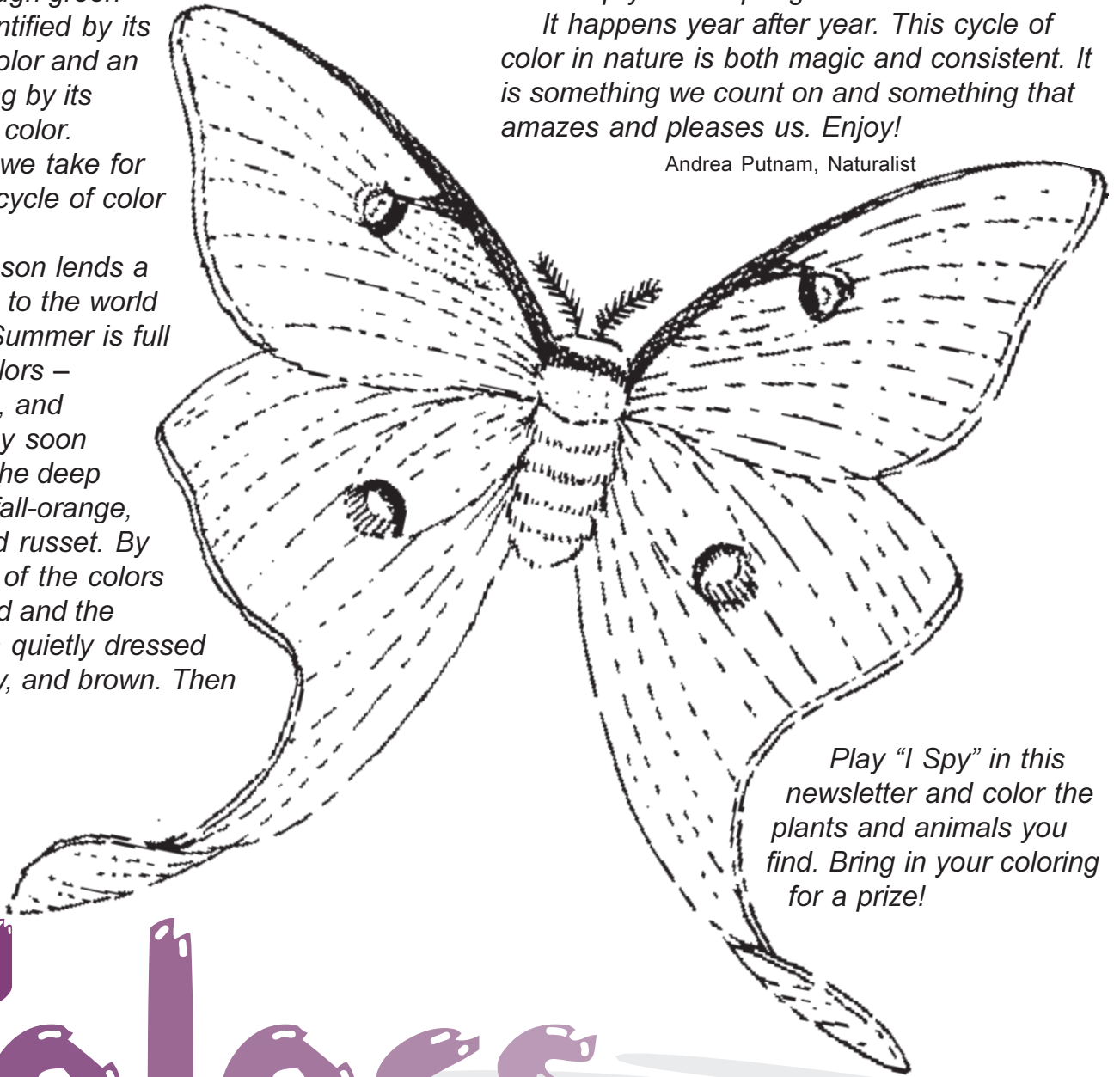
Color is all around us. We identify plants and animals by the different pigments that we see. A rough green snake is identified by its lime green color and an indigo bunting by its striking blue color. Sometimes, we take for granted the cycle of color in nature.

Each season lends a different hue to the world around us. Summer is full of vibrant colors – greens, reds, and yellows. They soon give way to the deep richness of fall-orange, mustard, and russet. By winter, most of the colors have receded and the landscape is quietly dressed in white, gray, and brown. Then

something magical happens! The drab hues of winter gently turn to soft pink, new green, and buttercup yellow. Spring is here!

It happens year after year. This cycle of color in nature is both magic and consistent. It is something we count on and something that amazes and pleases us. Enjoy!

Andrea Putnam, Naturalist

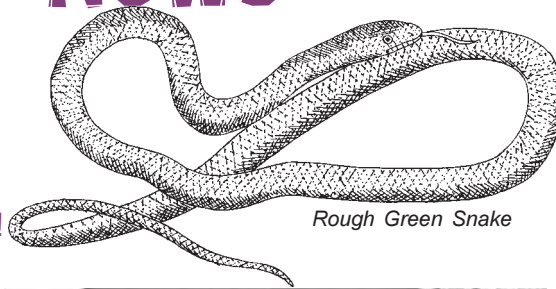


Play "I Spy" in this newsletter and color the plants and animals you find. Bring in your coloring for a prize!

I
spy
Colors in nature

Volunteer News

Twenty Runge Volunteers helped with this year's Eagle Days event at Lake of the Ozarks, where 2,746 people attended. Thanks Volunteers! We couldn't have done it without you!



Exhibits

Watercolor Paintings by the late **Edgar Denison** will be on display during March and April. These 34 paintings reflect Mr. Denison's passion for Missouri wildflowers. From delicate little bird's foot violet to pokeweed towering ten feet tall, Edgar loved them all.

Edgar Denison is perhaps best known for his authoring *Missouri Wildflowers*, a field guide to Missouri native plants. His book is available in our giftshop.

Pottery in Nature by Ann Grotjan will be on display during the month of March. Her exhibit will feature pottery and sculpture. Ann works mostly with clay, and the inspiration for her work is generally organic, whether it is abstract or realistic. Stop by on March 20 and see Ann in action during our Naturescape Symposium.

Nature Shop News

March/April featured item



20% off

Heritage card discount does not apply.

Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri by Don Kurz
This book is for homeowners or botanists and provides detailed descriptions and illustrations of 170 species of native and non-native shrubs and vines in Missouri. Methods for planting and propagation are included. 387 pages. Discounted price is **\$9.60** plus tax.

Runge Conservation

Nature Center is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north for 1/4 mile to the Nature Center entrance on the left. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00AM to 5:00PM and Noon to 5:00PM on Sundays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. No admission fee.
573/526-5544 FAX: 573/526-4496
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/runge

MARCH EVENTS at Runge

REGISTRATION

Call Runge Conservation Nature Center on or after March 1st to register for these free programs (573/526-5544.) If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

10 *Wednesday*

Naturalist Badge

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: 4th grade Cub Scouts

Reservations required.

11 *Thursday*

Grassland Birds and their Habitat

Time: 7:00-8:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

See Missouri's prairies through the eyes of a Prairie Chicken! Join Dennis Figg, Wildlife Programs Supervisor with the MO Department of Conservation, to learn about the grasslands habitat that various birds require, and their prospects in Missouri. Grasslands are as important as forests and wetlands. This program co-sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

12 *Friday*

Woodcock Walk

Time: 6:00-7:00PM

Ages: All

What goes 'peeeent' and flies like a drunken moth? Answer: The American Woodcock. Join us as we uncover the mysteries of the woodcock, then venture outside to search for this fascinating bird and watch his mating display. Reservations required.

14 *Sunday*

Nature Notes: Hidden Colors

Time: 2:00PM

Ages: All (children accompanied by adult)

Nature reveals its colors in various ways. Some hues shout to us while others whisper their presence. Join us as we peer into shadows, gaze under leaves, and keep our eyes peeled for hidden colors. Bring your journal or use our paper to write and draw about the colors we discover. Reservations required.

16 *Tuesday*

Woodcock Walk

Time: 6:00-7:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

Refer to March 12 description.

17 *Wednesday*

Watching Wildlife Try-It

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: 2nd-5th grade Brownies

Reservations required.

18 *Thursday*

Wildlifers—Quilt Block

Time: 10:00-11:30AM, 1:00-2:30PM, 3:30-5:00PM, and 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: 50 years and older

The robin "red-breasts" will be making an appearance this month. Join us to learn more about this bird and make a patchwork block for your collection. Reservations required.

18 *Thursday*

Woodcock Walk

Time: 6:00-7:00PM

Ages: All

Refer to March 12 description.

21 *Sunday*

Family Hike

Time: 1:00-5:00PM

Ages: Families with children 7-12 years

We will hike the 1.6 mile Osage Bluff Scenic Trail at Painted Rock Conservation Area and look for colors and signs of spring. Meet at Runge Conservation Nature Center at 8:30AM. We will try to be back by noon. Wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots and bring water, a snack, and a sense of adventure. Reservations required.

21 *Sunday*

Beautiful Bird Bingo

Time: 1:00PM

Ages: All

With a flash of colorful feathers, birds dance on air! Learning Missouri birds is easy and fun with Bird Bingo. Come learn with us. You might even win a prize! Reservations required.

24 *Wednesday*

Her Story Try-It

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: 2nd - 5th grade Brownies

Reservations required.

25 *Thursday*

Buggin' Out!

Time: 1:00-3:00PM

Ages: All


Fly, crawl, or hop in and see our bugs! Our swarm will be on display for everyone to adore. Enjoy pinning demonstrations, critter crafts, and learning about Missouri's wonderful insects. No reservations required.

27 *Saturday*

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00 AM-5:30 PM

Ages: 18 years and older

This month, we'll travel to one of our most popular state parks—**Bennett Spring**. We won't be in search of trout, though. We'll hike the **Natural Tunnel Trail** (7.5 miles ) to find a 296-foot-long S-shaped tunnel—one of the largest, most beautiful (and largely unknown) natural tunnels in the state. Bring a small pack, your lunch, water, and wear hiking boots or comfortable shoes. We will eat lunch on the trail. Bring a flashlight if you want to explore inside the tunnel. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

We're hungry and we don't mind you watchin'!

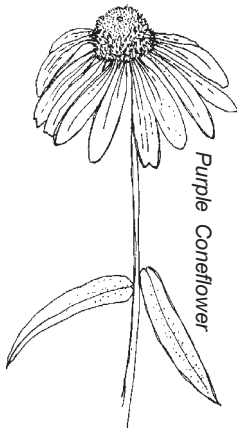
Stop by the nature center on the following days and watch the critters being fed.

March 23, Tuesday ~ Snakes - 11:00AM

March 26, Friday ~ Fish - 11:00AM & 11:30AM

Turtles - 11:15AM

April 20, Tuesday ~ Snakes - 11:00AM



For the Little Ones

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Saturday, March 6 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, March 23 – 10:00AM

Friday, March 26 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Friday, March 5 – 10:00AM

Wednesday, March 10 – 6:00PM

Saturday, March 13 – 10:00AM

Wednesday, March 17 – 2:00PM

Thursday, March 25 – 10:00AM

Squirrels and Chipmunks: Backyard Cousins

Busy all the time, squirrels are fun to watch in our backyards. Sometimes their cousin, the chipmunk scurries about also. We will look for them in Runge's backyard, read a story about them, and play some squirrel-y games. Reservations required.

27 *Saturday*

Beginning Archery

Time: 10:00-11:30AM

1:00-2:30PM

Ages: 8 years and older

"I shoot an arrow into the air, and where it lands..." With a little practice we can help you hit the target. Join us at the nature center for some archery fun. We'll provide the equipment, instructions, and targets. You provide the smiles. Make a point to be there! Reservations required.

27 *Sunday*

Runge Reading Guild

Time: 2:30-4:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

We are making a diversion in our reading material for March 2004. We will be reading a very popular fiction book, "*The Secret Life of Bees*" by Sue Monk Kidd. This wonderful book about a young girl and her search for a mother shows how relationships sustain us with life's difficulties but also help us celebrate life's wonders. We will also learn something about "Bees!" Enjoy reading the book, then join us for an interesting discussion. This book is available at Downtown Book & Toy with a 30% discount for Book Discussion Groups. Reservations required.

28 *Sunday*

Walkie Talkies

Time: 1:00-2:00PM *Ages: All*

You deserve a walk today! Walk with us through Runge's woodlands as we talk about early blooming wildflowers along the way. Relish the first greens of spring and watch the woodlands wake from their wintry rest. The trail will be about one mile in length with hilly terrain. Please dress for the weather. Reservations required.

Naturescape Symposium March 20 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Programs

10:00AM **Danger Plants, Those Invasive Exotics** (Tim Smith, MDC Botanist)

11:00AM **"Extra Terrestrial" Gardening** Inviting Insects, Birds, And Other Creatures To Your Yard And Garden (Alan Branhagen, Director of Horticulture at Powell Gardens)

1:00PM **Easy, Fun and Affordable Native Landscape Designs** Easy Designs that Families Can Use To Get Started With Native Plants In Their Yards (Bonnie Chasteen, Grow Native!)

2:00PM **The Right Plant for the Right Site** Using Natives For Those Hard-To-Grow-Anything Areas (George Yatskievych, MDC Botanist and Curator of Missouri Plants at Missouri Botanical Gardens)

3:00PM **Plants of Lewis and Clark in Missouri** Missouri Plants Of The Expedition (Doris Hessee, Runge Volunteer Naturalist)

Exhibitors Blooming Paradise Native Plants, DNR Solid Waste Management Program, Grow Native!, Longfellow's Garden Center, Midwest Block and Brick, Missouri Wildflowers Nursery, and Songbird Station

Free tree seedling and packet of native wild-flower seeds. (One per family while supplies last.)

No reservations required to attend this event.



I spy with my little eye something purple.

HABITAT HAPPENINGS

APRIL EVENTS at Runge

REGISTRATION

Call Runge Conservation Nature Center on or after March 1st to register for these free programs (573/526-5544.) If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

2 *Friday*

Nature & Your Health Series: Trees and Sneeze

Time: 6:00-8:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

Do your allergies seem to start up in early spring? Maybe tree pollen is the culprit. Join Dr. Stanley Horner, DO, Allergy and Immunology Specialist, and Jan Syrigos, Naturalist, on a walk and talk to learn about trees and their pollen. We'll hike a one-mile trail on moderate terrain and learn to identify the top ten "sneeze" trees. Then we'll head inside for a more in depth look at tree pollen and its effects on our health. Reservations required.

7 *Wednesday*

Earth & Sky Try-It

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: 2nd-5th grade Brownies

Reservations required.

8 *Thursday*

Botanical Riches Encountered by Lewis and Clark

Time: 7:00-8:00PM

Ages: Adults



Ginny Wallace, Master Naturalist Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Conservation will describe plants found in Missouri 200 years ago and their medicinal uses. She will also tell about other plants that Native Americans used for food and shelter. Inquiring minds will be transported back in time to learn about Missouri's diverse flora in the early 1800's. This program is co-sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

10 *Saturday*

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Ages: 18 years and older

This month, the Hiking Club returns to **Graham Cave State Park** to see if we can add to our list of 49 blooming wildflowers and trees from the area. We'll hike two trails, the **Indian Glade Trail** (2.25 miles ) which takes us on the roof of an elegantly arching shelter cave, and the **Loutre River Trail** (1.5 miles ) We'll also see undercut sandstone ledges, small glades, wet-weather waterfalls, and the Pirate's Plank. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

10 *Saturday*

Family Frog Frolic

Time: 2:00PM

Ages: All

Spring has sprung and the frogs are calling to us. We will head to the marsh to investigate frogs, tadpoles, insects, and more. There is always something to discover in the dark cool goo of the wetland. Prepare to be outdoors and wet! Reservations required.

Scout Packs Available

NEW! Naturalist and Forester Packs! Leaders, you can now check out the Naturalist/Forester pack at Runge. This pack contains activities that meet requirements of both the Naturalist and Forester badges. Make your reservation with Andrea today by calling 573/522-4115 ext 3401.

Other packs available:

Wolf Cub Elective #13 - *Birds*

Brownie Try-It - *Animals*

Cub Scout Achievement #5 - *Sharing Your World With Wildlife*

Brownie Try-It - *Plants*

14 *Wednesday*

Forester Badge

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: 4th grade Cub Scouts

Reservations required.

15 *Thursday*

Wildlifers—Quilt Block

Time: 10:00-11:30 AM, 1:00-2:30 PM,

3:30 - 5:00 PM, and 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Ages: 50 and older

The ruby-throated hummingbird is one of the most fascinating birds in Missouri. Learn more about this long-beaked bird and make a block to take home. Reservations required.

17 *Saturday*

Runge Reading Guild

Time: 2:30-4:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

To begin the celebration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, our selection for April will be *Lewis and Clark in Missouri* by St. Louis, Missouri writer, Ann Rogers. *Lewis and Clark in Missouri* focuses on the Missouri chapter of their epic journey, a portion of the story that has been slighted in other accounts. Enjoy reading this carefully researched yet highly readable account of this part of the historical journey and join us for discussion and celebration. This book is available at Downtown Book & Toy with a 30% discount for Book Discussion Groups. This book is also available at the Runge Nature Center Gift Shop. Reservations required.

18 *Sunday*

I Spy Colors in Nature Hike

Time: 1:00PM

Ages: All

Nature is full of wonderful color surprises. It's almost spring and magical things are happening at Runge. We'll grab our binoculars and magnifying glasses and hike the Nature Center trails in search of rainbows. Reservations required.

18 *Sunday*

Nature Notes: Colors of the Rainbow

Time: 2:30PM

Ages: All (children accompanied by adult)

Could you say, "My heart leaps up when I behold a rainbow in the sky," as William Wordsworth did? Even without that colorful arch above, delightful tints await your discovery here. Come along when we take our nature journals and stroll Runge's trails looking for colors. You may draw the red on a bird, write about the orange in a fungus, or find other rainbow hues that energize your heart. Reservations required.

22 *Thursday*

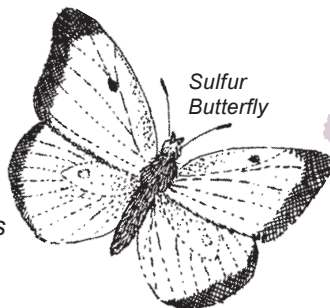
Bird Basics

Time: 6:00-7:00PM

Ages: 2nd and 3rd grade

What birds do we see at Runge? What do they eat? What can we do for them? Come find out!

Reservations required.



Sulfur
Butterfly

For the Little Ones

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Saturday, April 10 – 10:00AM

Thursday, April 29 – 11:00AM

Friday, April 30 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Tuesday, April 6 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, April 13 – 2:00PM

Wednesday, April 14 – 6:00PM

Thursday, April 15 – 10:00AM

Saturday, April 17 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, April 27 – 1:00PM

Rainbow Romp

Colors surround us, especially outdoors! As we walk a trail this month, we will become part of nature's painting and will search for the colors of the rainbow. Reservations required.

23 *Friday*

Earth Day

Time: 10:00AM-3:00PM

Ages: All

Location: State Capitol Complex, Jefferson City

Come see what awaits you at this year's Earth Day celebration. Stop by our booth and learn about the plants and animals from the Lewis and Clark expedition. The event is hosted by the Department of Natural Resources. No reservations required.

24 *Saturday*

5th Annual Wildlifers Quilt Show

Time: 10:00-4:00PM

Ages: All

Come see the handiwork of the Wildlifers group! These beautiful quilts display blocks created during the past year. You will be amazed by the many ways nature can be interpreted through the eye of a needle. No reservations required.



25 *Sunday*

5th Annual Wildlifers Quilt Show

Time: 1:00-4:00PM


Ages: All



Refer to April 24 for description.




Hunter Education





Do you need to take the hunter education course and don't know where to look? Hunter education courses are posted on the internet at www.mdc.mo.gov/hunt/heclass-search.html. You can search by county to locate a course near to you.






Trail rating system for the trails advertised for the Runge Hiking Club.

 -Easiest trail—flat terrain with no obstructions (like the Katy Trail)

  -Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)

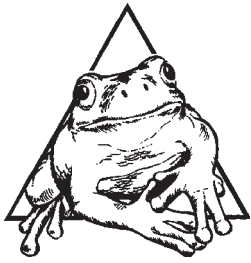
   -Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots

    -Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots

     -Most difficult—significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks

*I spy with my little eye
something yellow.*





Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to our April meeting and we'll sign you up.

Lost Valley Hatchery Adventure

Saturday, March 6

9:00AM - 3:00PM Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this special program.

Head out on a field trip with your Conservation Kids' Club buddies to explore one of the largest warmwater hatcheries in the nation! Please see your *Treetop Chatter* newsletter for permission forms and trip details.

Permission forms must be received no later than **5:00PM, February 23**. New members to

Conservation Kids' Club must have joined by January 20 in order to qualify for the trip.



Stream Team Clean-up

Tuesday, April 20

6:00 - 7:00PM Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this clean-up effort.

Want to help save a stream? Well, the Conservation Kids' Club has adopted our very own mile of Wears Creek which runs along Moss Rock Trace. It's time for us to get right down in the creek and do some clean-up work. So wear your "OK-if-muddy-grubbies" and roll up your sleeves...you're gonna make a difference! Long pants are a must for safety reasons. Gloves and trashbags provided. Cool stream prizes!

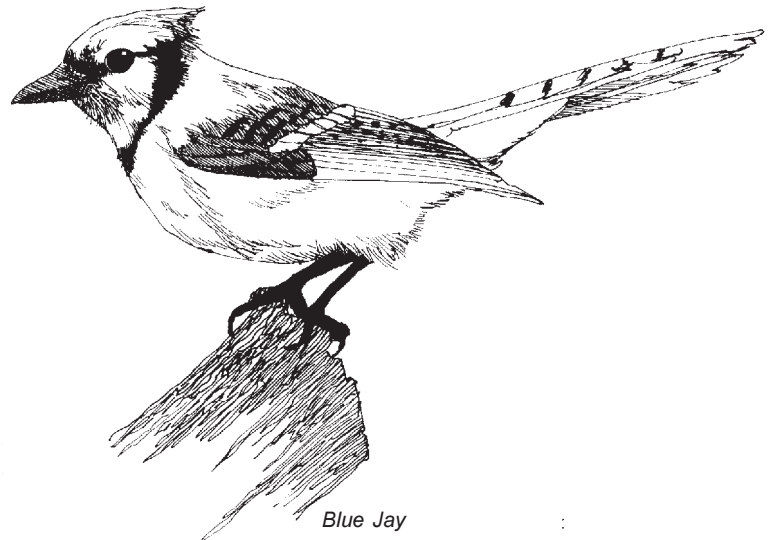
Hey Parents!

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 5 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on Tuesday, April 20, 6:00-7:00PM. There will not be a preschool program on March 6 for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members. Refer to your **Treetop Chatter** newsletter for program descriptions. There are no reservations required.



Did you know?

- Color is camouflage against predators. Birds that nest outside of cavities have colored or marked eggs, such as the blue of robin eggs.
- Eaglets - baby bald eagles - have dark brown heads until they are 5 or 6 years old when they turn completely white.
- Red is an easy color for hummingbirds to see.
- Most mammals do not see colors. Most birds, reptiles, fish, and insects see colors.
- Bright colors help a male bird attract a female. Drab colors of female birds help hide her from predators.



Blue Jay



Naturescape
Symposium
March 20 10:00AM-4:00PM

HABITATHAPPENINGS
Runge Conservation Nature Center
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Jefferson City Missouri
Permit No. 274